

For Military Media

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Alaska Guardsman awarded Supply Excellence Award

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska—Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Sanchez is the first member of the Alaska Army National Guard to win the Army Supply Excellence Award, National Guard category. He was presented the 2012 award on Jan. 24 this year for maintaining his unit's property books at a standard higher than that of competing units.

Sanchez is the property book officer with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Ft. Greely.

The Supply Excellence Award Program was established in 1984 to recognize supply excellence at various unit and organizational levels within the U.S. Army. The objectives of the program are to enhance logistical readiness of all U.S. Army units, enforce the command supply discipline program, encourage the use of available resources, and provide a structure for recognition of group and individual initiatives.

"It was a lot of attention to detail," said Sanchez. "The inspections are pretty much qualitative checks where they look at a lot of our files, all of our systems and the property books."

Each year, the Department of Defense is authorized a budget by the U.S. Congress to conduct business. This money not only includes payrolls, but every other expenditure, including all equipment used by subsequent organizations and units. In the Army, maintaining control of the equipment falls on the shoulders of property book officers.

"Property book officers are the accountable officers for pretty much all property in the Army," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Nieto, property book officer, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard. "The units have certain requirements for property, for weapons systems, vehicles, and radio systems. We put in the requisition for that equipment, we get with the item managers, we make sure the equipment comes in and then we can fill the unit shortages."

With equipment levels changing as items break, need to be replaced or updated, the receipts and records for equipment are constantly changing, explained Nieto.

With the Supply Excellence Award Program, each unit is given a checklist that details how their filing systems should be, said Sanchez. The units make binders detailing their inventories and receipts, and then the units submit packets to the graders at Fort Lee, Va. for Phase I evaluation of the competition.

The two highest scoring units with an overall score higher than 80 percent are then selected for Phase II evaluation, according to the U.S. Army's quartermaster website. The second phase consists of on-site evaluations, and the highest scoring unit that achieves a score higher than 90 percent is selected as the winner.

"There's a checklist that they go by," said Sanchez, "so we know in advance what they're looking for, and we just follow that list. That said, it was a lot of long days and nights making sure everything was correct."

Alaska was runner-up for the 2011 award, which made winning the 2012 competition even more rewarding.

"I'm proud of it," Sanchez said. "It's the recognition that Alaska deserves. It's unprecedented because it covers everybody. Fifty-four states and territories are competing for this award, so it's really prestigious."

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Photo Cutlines:

Supply Excellence Award Jan 24

Brig. Gen. John E. O'Neil IV, 52nd Quartermaster General Commandant, U.S. Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Va. and Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, present Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Sanchez, property book officer with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion located at Ft. Greely, Alaska, with the Supply Excellence Award on Jan. 24. Sanchez was presented the 2012 award for maintaining his unit's property books at a standard higher than that of competing units. This award marks the first time the Alaska Army National Guard has ranked first place in the competition, which includes other National Guard units in all 54 states and territories. photo courtesy of U.S. Army National Guard